

Title: The Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Programme gets started in the North of Mali

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Department: Education

Description: Government and NGO collaboration encourages 5000 primary school girls in remote areas to pursue their education

Geographic areas: West Africa, Mali, Tombouctou, Gao, Kidal

Keywords: girls/ scholarships / mentoring

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Picture: Sassama Wallet Sidi Mohamed : A fourth year pupil from the Essouk primary school in the region of Kidal (photo: Sue Upton)



Content:

In Mali, particularly in the North, many girls do not yet get the opportunity to go to school or once there, find it difficult to continue their schooling to secondary level. This is largely due to their family's economic situation, nomadic life style and the traditional role of women and girls in society. The Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program, funded by a White House Initiative, the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) implemented in Mali by World Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and 3 local NGOs, has a range of strategies to assist 5000 primary school girls to continue their education:

- ◆ 5,000 scholarships for girls attending 100 primary schools in the regions of Gao, Kidal and Tombouctou, which provide funding for school fees, uniforms, books and stationary, lamps and paraffin to enable home study in the evenings
- ◆ Scholarship girls will be given the opportunity to attend remedial classes and home study groups. Peer and family support and monitoring of their school attendance enables any problems to be noticed and quickly addressed.
- ◆ Teachers are encouraged to give more classroom attention to girls and divide classroom duties fairly and parents are made aware of the importance of supporting their daughters in school.
- ◆ Mothers' Associations play a role in the management of scholarship funds and work with school authorities and communities to encourage effective education for girls.
- ◆ Mentoring activities include the opportunity to talk to local women with notable achievements and to visit secondary schools and prepare for continued education.
- ◆ Regional girls' days raise the profile of girls' education and give encouragement to girls in school.

The Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program will enable more girls to progress from one class to the next (4th-6th grades), encourage higher school attendance and contribute to an improved environment for girls' education in the North of Mali (Tombouctou, Gao, and Kidal).